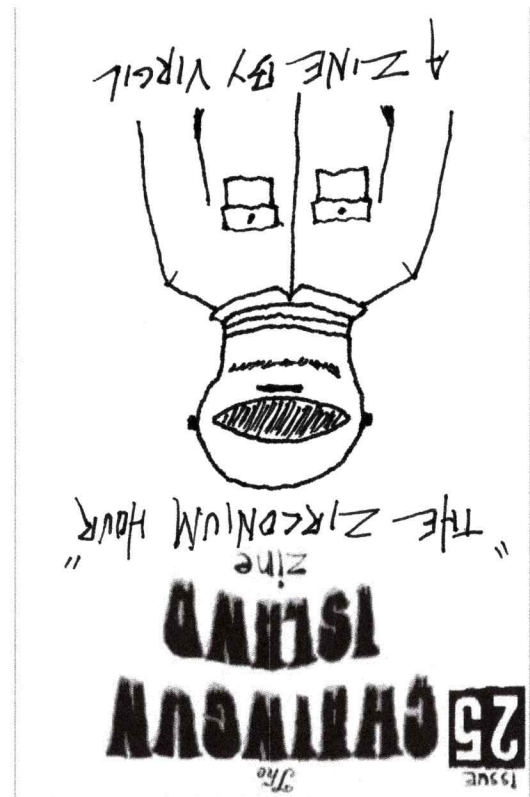
What is this?

Hello there.

It appears that you have acquired my Issue of the "Chaingun Island Zine" The "craziest zine in the Southern Ohio area!" as 8-Track TeckHead would say. This zine consists of reviews concerning music, video games, and movies curated by me, Virgil. I am TeckHead's "buddy" and I do hope that you enjoy this zine.



That's it. Show's over! Thanks for readin' it...

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8-Track TeckHead

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The Blurb

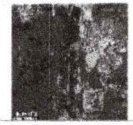
This is Issue 25 of the Chaingun Island Zine. As of writing this blurb, TeckHead and company have absconded to Geneva-On-The-Lake in Ashtabula County, Ohio. Around this time last year, TeckHead and his wife snuck onto a tour bus headed to this town. Now, I have heard much about this place from TeckHead, but that does not pertain to this zine. TeckHead has asked me to produce this month's issue in his stead, a task that is equally enticing and brobdingagian for me. I spend most of my time creating technology in my various workshops around my home as well as a litany of other hobbies such as programming, synth work, playing video games, et cetera. I find that keeping busy is the most important thing one can do for themselves, a notion that TeckHead has trouble grasping at times. Still, I find TeckHead a valuable companion; I suppose Odbal is pleasant too, at times. I do hope that my contribution to Chaingun Island will please you. I am not the best at writing, but I shall persist.

GOTH

Virgil's Album

Shin Terai - Unisen

While I greatly enjoy electronic music, I must admit that I additionally have a love for jazz. Most especially, jazz that is experimental in some capacity. Shin Terai is a Japanese producer and musician closely affiliated with Bill Laswell, a name you may recognize. Terai-San set out to collaborate with musicians such as Bill Laswell, Bernie Worrell, Nicky Skopelitis, and Buckethead, a guitarist that TeckHead as well as myself greatly admire. However, I cannot let the inclusion of Buckethead overshadow the rest of the band's immense skill featured in this album. There is no "frontman" so to speak. Each musician's talents blend seamlessly and effortlessly, creating a rich atmosphere of soothing music. I quite enjoy listening to this whenever I feel the need to calm myself down or focus intently on one task. Now, I believe TeckHead told me to rate this album however I see fit, so I shall give it a perfect score of 10/10.



Genre: Future Jazz
Country: Japan

Label: Absord Music Japan
Released: 1999

Virgil's Video Game

Mad Maestro! - Sony PlayStation 2

As you may have possibly surmised, I am quite fond of video games; especially rhythm games. TeckHead and I have bonded over rhythm video games such as Guitar Hero and its lesser-known precursor, "Guitar Freaks", which I emulate on my computer due to its arcade exclusivity, but my interest in Mad Maestro for the Sony PlayStation 2 is unique to me. Do not mistake me, for TeckHead does enjoy listening to classical music from time to time, yet he finds this game quite frustrating. I understand why he would think that; Mad Maestro utilizes the PlayStation 2's pressure-sensitive buttons as a core feature in gameplay. The game will require you to press the buttons a certain way as to control the dynamics of the orchestra. I find this mechanic quite compelling while TeckHead finds it rather unfair. I will admit, at first I found TeckHead's complaints to be puerile. Though, I had to hold my tongue, as making a remark about his dilemma would make me no better than forum dwellers repeating the mantra "Git Gud". As it seems to be, Mad Maestro is exponentially more difficult when using a non-OEM controller. As luck would have it, you can modify pressure thresholds in the settings. I am quite fond of the selection of pieces included, especially "Slavonic Dances, op. 46: no. 7 in C minor". That is my most favorite classical piece.

I shall give this videogame the unremarkable score of 6.8/10.

the pressure!!

Developer: Desert Productions
Publisher: Eidos Interactive

Released: 2002

Virgil's Odbal pick

Le Tam - Le Tam

Usually, Odbal would provide commentary on a piece that he finds intriguing. I do not have his unusual outlook on the world, so I apologize if my choice of album is not "oddball" for Odbal's standards. William John Latour was a House music producer from Chicago who toiled in obscurity until the release of his novelty House single, "People Are Still Having Sex". Some may simply find this song in particular to be humorous, but I find it rather comforting knowing there is someone else in the world who shares my thoughts on the grotesque matter of human sexuality. I have never been fond of sexual acts. I feel as though I should mention that I used to DJ at local nightclubs a few years ago. I quit this occupation due to the recurring event where women and men alike would try to coerce me into sexual acts, be it at their domicile or elsewhere. I was greatly disturbed by this. I found this album shortly after quitting and found solace in LaTour's words as well as his instrumentation. TeckHead has called me "silly" and a "prude" for these sentiments, but I shall not waver in my preference to not engage in the act of sex. I am not that of a puritan, no, I am simply uninterested.

I shall give this album a score of 8/10 as the rest of the album is quite enjoyable

Released: 1991
Genre: House

Country: USA
Label: Smash Records

No!

Virgil's Album

The Adventures Of Mad Tam - 1985

For my "Flick", I engaged in much deliberation over what it should be. There are many films that I have seen throughout my life that I would consider impactful such as The Iron Giant or Pee-Wee's Big Adventure. However, there is one film that comes to mind that I would consider worthy of review for this zine in particular. The Adventures of Mark Twain. The first time I saw this film, I had obtained a tape from a friend which contained the quite-infamous "Mysterious Stranger" scene. I was terrified, yet enamored with the delicate craftsmanship of the scene. Unlike contemporary stop-motion works today, Mark Twain utilizes clay exclusively. This invokes a profound feeling of nostalgia. Many only know this film for the Mysterious Stranger, but I implore you to view this piece in its entirety. Each Mark Twain story is wonderfully interpreted. I particularly enjoyed the retelling of the story of Adam and Eve, despite the fact that I am not of a religious alignment. However, I have found "gospel" in Twain's words, especially the phrase "A man with a new idea is a fool... until the new idea succeeds." and "Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand" Perhaps I should indulge in Twain's literature more often.

That being said, I shall give this film a perfect score of 10/10.

Genre: Claymation
Runtime: 86 Minutes

Director: Will Vinton
Writer: Susan Shadburne

Virgil's Video Game

Mad Maestro! - Sony PlayStation 2

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